

IN FRIENDSHIP, Unity and Christian Charity



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

<http://www.aohfredericksburg.org/>

November 2016

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**President:** Andy Link **Chaplain:** Father Jerry Wooton **Vice President:** Dan Mulhern  
**Financial Secretary:** Jeff Banks **Treasurer:** Dick Dowd **Recording Secretary:** Jack Grey  
**Standing Committee:** Vacant **Marshal:** Shawn Lenahan **Sentinel:** Paul O'Brien, **Webmaster:** John Hogan **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin (sisconsulting@comcast.net)

In Memory of Jeffery Sean Fitzpatrick  
May 2, 1965 – October 14, 2016



Jeff Fitzpatrick, an example for all Hibernians, joined the Col Fitzgerald Division (AR01) in 1995 and transferred to the Gen Meagher Division (SP01) in 2002. He served our Division as Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Vice President. Jeff chaired the Rose of Tralee Committee; he was the catalyst for our Charities Committee and he served as liaison to St Mary Parish. He was primarily responsible for division growth in St Mary Parish. He organized our annual St Patrick dinner at Holy Cross Academy, the occasional Irish Breakfasts at St Mary; the St Mary International Festival; and our financial support to Holy Cross Academy. Supporting Hibernian Respect for Life objectives he championed Division support for Mary's Shelter, the Paul Stefan Foundation and provided Birth Right sound cost saving measures. For 13 years, Jeff organized the Fredericksburg area St Patrick Day parade and the post-parade Irish Festival that draws thousands of spectators who enjoy Irish music and Irish dance.

*Eternal rest, grant unto him O LORD and  
let perpetual light shine upon him*

Dear Hibernians,

During 2016, it was my honor to serve during the 100-year anniversary. I want to thank all the Past Division Presidents especially our Division for supporting me to carry on Hibernian tradition. I am also in debit to all the Division Officers on my team this year for your work and selfless support.

I pledge support to our newly elected Division President Shawn Lenahan and his slate of 2017 Officers. I am very happy to meet with them to provide any information they might require. The 2017 Meagher Division Officer selections over the past two months would not be possible without the work of our Past Division Presidents. They worked diligently to provide our Division with wonderful candidates. I also want to thank our former "Hibernian of the Year" recipients for selecting this year's General Thomas Francis Meagher Division Hibernian of the Year for 2016. The criteria for selection was straightforward, looked over the qualifications and considered a candidate for his impact to the Irish catholic community consistently over the past couple of years. It is with great pleasure that I concur with the Hibernian of the Year committee on their selection and I look forward in recognizing our 2016 nominee at our December meeting.



During the month of November, we will be giving the remainder of our parish project charity money raised this year to the Pastors at St. Jude, St. Mary and St. Patrick's. The charity money used for these checks were made possible by all your support to the annual Shamrock Charity Golf Tournament and our Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle. The experience of being involved in any golf tournament was very new to me and the success of the tournament did not come to fruition until the week before the event. With regard to the other big charity and fundraiser, Vice President Dan Mulhern made selling raffle tickets look really easy. Selling of tickets was made possible by our parish representatives and their



coordination with each Pastor. Remarkably, all Trip for Two to Ireland tickets were sold two months before the drawing! I think we all were very impressed to say the least, thank you Dan. Thank you for your prayers over the past month recovering from an injury and surgery. I believe in the power of prayer regardless of your situation or the eventual outcome, faith will carry you through. I wish each of you and your families all of God's Blessings during Thanksgiving. We also ask our patron St. Patrick to watch over us all and keep us all safe, happy and healthy.

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

Richard Andrew Link, II  
Meagher Division President



*“The Celt would forfeit his title to the respect of the civilized world, did he not fight with all his heart and all his soul and all his cunning against the empire which has despoiled him and murdered his kin, now with arms, now with artificial famine. There can be no peace between the two people until either Ireland is a desert or is free. It is war to the knife, and the knife to the hilt. There can be neither truce nor compromise.”*

### *In Case You Missed It*

At our November meeting we elected a fine cadre of officers to lead the division in 2017. They are:

President: Shawn Lenahan  
Vice President: Vacant (see below)  
Recording Secretary: Bob Vanderveer  
Financial Secretary: Bob Fitzgerald  
Treasurer: Jeff Everett  
Standing Committee: Dave McLaughlin  
Marshal: Paul O’Brien  
Sentinel: Jack Grey

Jeff Banks was our unanimous nominee for Vice President. He previously served as Financial Secretary and we looked forward to his future in the division. Unfortunately for us, Jeff has accepted a position with Northrop Grumman in Florida. This move brings Jeff closer to family and that is always important.

“May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.”

### *Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Dedication*

Virginia AOH Vice President Bill Halpin travelled to Ennis, Ireland to participate in the Veterans Day unveiling of a memorial dedicated to 30 Irish nationals killed in action in Southeast Asia during the Viet Nam war. The names were read, six each by five speakers; Bill was honored to be one of them. After taps was played and due to heavy rain, speeches by representatives from the US Embassy, the

Killarney American Legion Post, the Irish Defense Force, and city and county officials were moved inside.



Matthew Carroll and Lt Col Andrew Martin, U.S. Defense Attaché, remove the cover



Bill Halpin reading names



The Memorial

The Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project was established by Matthew Carroll and continued by John Dullahan, an Irish immigrant drafted into the US Army in 1966. Matthew (Armor), John (Artillery) and Bill (Special Forces) served with the US Army in Viet Nam. Halpin has been involved in fund raising for the project since inception in 2010; Mr. Carroll visited our division and solicited AOH support at the 2014 AOH National Convention in St Louis.

**Four Years Ago - November 20, 2012:** The Shamrock Degree was received by twelve new brothers: Jeff Banks, Pete Carroll, Billy Driskill, Tom Evans, Jim Florio, Bill Hocter, Tommy Lyons, Jim McMorrow, Dan Mulhern, Jim O'Donnell, Chuck Payne, and Bob Stevens.

### Irish Heritage



### Genealogy Corner

For all of you who have Galway Roots (or think you do), I suggest “*The Tribes of Galway 1124-1642*” by Adrian Martyn (<http://www.adrianmartyn.ie/>). Adrian is a

friend and historian/author. He lives in Athenry near Galway (recall “The Fields of Athenry”? If not, Google “Paddy Reilly the Fields of Athenry”).

*Important in the Local area*

### *Robert Emmet Park Act of 2016*



The House of Representatives has just passed the Robert Emmet Park Act, which re-designates the park located on the corner of 24th Street and Massachusetts Avenue NW as the "Robert Emmet Park." The Bipartisan Act will now be sent forward for consideration in the Senate. The Embassy of Ireland will keep us updated on its progress over the coming months.

The park is intended as a commemoration of the prominent historical figure known for his role in the Irish rebellion of 1803 and his "Speech from the Dock" that inspired future efforts to gain Irish independence. The park is located just a few blocks from the Embassy of Ireland, and features a nearly 100 year-old statue of Robert Emmet.

### *IRISH MARTYR*

### *Oliver Plunkett*

Edited from Wild Geese --by John Anthony Brennan on October 14, 2016

**Oliver Plunkett** was born November 1, 1625 in County Meath, to well-to-do parents with Hiberno-Norman ancestors. As an aspirant to the priesthood he set out for Rome in 1647, under the care of Father Scarampi of the Roman Oratory. At this time the Irish Confederate Wars were raging in Ireland, a series of violent conflicts between native Irish Roman Catholics, English and Irish Anglicans and Protestants. Scarampi was the Papal envoy to the Roman Catholic movement known as the

Confederation of Ireland. Many of Plunkett's relatives were involved in this organization.

He was admitted to the Irish College in Rome and was ordained a priest in 1654. Meanwhile, the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland (1649–53) had defeated the Roman Catholic cause and the public practice of Roman Catholicism was banned and Roman Catholic clergy were exiled or executed. It was impossible for Plunkett to return to Ireland for many

years. He became a professor of theology in Rome at the College of Propaganda Fide. In 1668 he was appointed Archbishop of Armagh, the Irish primatial see, and was consecrated on 30 November at Ghent by the Bishop of Ghent. He eventually set foot on Irish soil again on 7 March 1670.

Back in Ireland, he reorganized the ravaged Roman Church and built schools both for the young and for clergy. As the Penal Laws had been relaxed, Plunkett was able to establish a Jesuit College in Drogheda in 1670. A year later 150 students attended the college, no fewer than 40 of whom were Protestant, making this college the first integrated school in Ireland.

On the enactment of the Test Act in 1673, to which Plunkett would not agree for doctrinal reasons, the college was closed and demolished. Plunkett went into hiding, travelling in disguise, and refusing the government edict to register at a seaport to await passage into exile. For the next few years he was largely left in peace since the Dublin government, except when pressured by the English government in London, preferred to leave the Catholic bishops alone.

The so-called Popish Plot, concocted in England by clergyman Titus Oates, led to further anti-Roman Catholic action. Archbishop Peter Talbot of Dublin was arrested and Plunkett again went into hiding. Despite being on the run and with a price on his

head, Plunkett refused to leave his flock. At some point before his final incarceration, he took refuge in a church that once stood in the townland of Killartry in County Louth, seven miles outside Drogheda.

The protestant parliament in England finally forced its will on King Charles II and issued a decree dissolving all Church property. Plunkett's schools in Drogheda were razed to the ground and on January 18 1674, Plunkett and his close friend John Brennan, Bishop of Cashel, were forced to flee and seek shelter in the South Armagh hills near Slieve Gullion.

This flight is well documented by Plunkett in a letter he wrote to the Internuncio in Rome on January 27 1674 from the house of a 'reduced gentleman who had nothing to lose' and who gave them shelter as they fled through the valleys around Mullaghbawn in County Armagh..

Plunkett was arrested in Dublin in December 1679 and imprisoned in Dublin Castle, where he gave absolution to the dying. Plunkett was tried at Dundalk for conspiring against the state by allegedly plotting to bring 20,000 French soldiers into the country and for levying a tax on his clergy to support 70,000 rebels. He was moved to prison in London to face trial at Westminster Hall and was *found guilty of high treason "for promoting the Roman faith"* and was condemned to death. He was hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn on 1

July 1681, at age 55, the last Roman Catholic martyr to die in England.

**NOTE:** To be “drawn, hanged, and quartered” was a statutory penalty for men convicted of high treason. Prisoners were fastened wooden panel and drawn by horse to the place of

execution. There they were hanged almost to the point of death, emasculated, and then disemboweled, beheaded and quartered (chopped into four pieces). Their remains were often displayed in prominent places across the country.



In July 2016 Pope Francis declared “*We are living in a moment of annihilation of man as image of God*”. He recalled Pope emeritus Benedict’s pronouncement: “*It’s the epoch of sin against God, the Creator.*”

**Say a Prayer of Thanks** to Mary Immaculate, Patroness of the United States, for delivering us from progressive secularism and the threat to our religious freedoms and sacred beliefs.

Please pray for the repose of the soul Jeffrey Sean Fitzpatrick and all deceased General Meagher Division brothers and their families. Please pray for the comfort and healing of our Brothers Neil Mulcahy (cancer), Dick Dowd (recovering from cancer), Jim McMorrow (recovering - cancer & knee replacement).

Keep in your prayers our family members and friends: Edith Fleming, widow of Charter Member Dick Fleming; Edith died on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Joe Monaghan’s sister-in-law, Donna Maffeo (cancer) and his father Joseph Monaghan Sr. who is caring for his mother and uncle (dementia/Alzheimer’s); Hugh O’Brien’s brother, John O’Brien (recovering from stroke); Rochelle Grey (hip surgery); Bob Doan’s sister-in-law Latisha Horwath (Parkinson’s disease); Barbara McCoy (cancer); Amy Whittaker (cancer), and, Eileen Link (Andy Link’s mother) and Dick (Eileen’s care giver), Matthew Carroll (Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project)



**Multiple Dates: Bingo!** Every Thursday and Saturday evening 6:30PM at **St Michael the Archangel High School**, 6301 Campus Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22407 (540) 548-8748). Bring the family!

**11 December: Battle of Fredericksburg:** Wreath presentations at City Dock (9:30AM) and Marye's Heights (about 2PM)

**11 December:** Annual Family **Christmas Party** at St Michael High School beginning at 4PM

**December 20:** Division meeting; **Installation of 2017 Officers**

**January 21, 2017: VAAOH Quarterly State Board Meeting** hosted by Colonel Thomas J. Cunningham Division (LO01) in the St Theresa Parish Hall, Ashburn, VA



*General Meagher Division Attire*

In a perfect world every brother would have these articles of clothing:

- For **semi-formal/formal occasions**, the AOH “uniform” is green sport coat, tri-color sash, white shirt, Irish theme tie, black trousers and optional ball cap. These occasions include AOH State and National conventions, Masses, funerals, AOH dinners, parades, and other public events.
- At **informal events** (i.e. Division outings (ball games, picnics, meetings, etc.) the division logo polo or sweatshirts (optional ball cap) are appropriate.

**Division Logo Items: The Point of Contact for Division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps is Shawn Lenahan ([s.lenahan@verizon.net](mailto:s.lenahan@verizon.net))**

**Green Jacket:** Brothers procure their own green jackets. One source: [http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens\\_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html](http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html). Visit the website; call the 800 number. Tell them you're with AOH and the \$5.00 small order fee can be waived. Kelly green is the color.

**AOH Sash:** Brothers procure their own sashes. The AOH tri-color sash represents the national colors of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder (green closest to neck/collar) crossing to the left hip. Measure from right shoulder



to left hip in inches; keep in mind the sash will normally be worn over a jacket, possibly a raincoat/overcoat (and maybe a growing waist line).

Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. Email Patricia at [traceysbydesign@aol.com](mailto:traceysbydesign@aol.com)  
She produces 7.5ft long sashes costing \$ 40.00 and guarantees satisfaction:  
if you're not satisfied send it back for a full refund.
- D & E Morrissey (954-426-3514) 1978 S.W. 17th Drive, Deerfield Beach,  
FL 33442